



**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES
CITY OF CHICAGO**

**STATEMENT FROM THE COMMISSIONER
TO THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

NOVEMBER 2013

Chairman Austin, Vice-Chairman Reilly and members of the City Council Committee on the Budget & Government Operations:

I am pleased to be here with you today to present the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) 2014 Budget.

There are few entities in municipal government that touch as many people's lives as deeply and as personally as DFSS. Hundreds of thousands of Chicago's residents, from newborns to seniors, benefit from our services every year. DFSS provides important early learning opportunities for Chicago's children; summer jobs and after-school engagement for our youth; transitional housing and supportive services for homeless families; guidance and aid to our proud veterans; support and a safe haven for victims of domestic violence; job training and placement help for the unemployed; care and life-enrichment opportunities for our seniors; and a second chance to ex-offenders.

In 2013, with the Mayor's leadership, we set out to establish important reforms to further improve the lives of resident. Today, I am happy to report that despite sequestration cuts, we successfully met them. Thus far we have expanded early learning programs for children; provided after-school and year-round learning for youth; we made important investments to address homeless with a specific focus on addressing youth homeless issues; and, created greater efficiencies in domestic violence and food protection programs.

As we move into 2014, we remain steadfast to the mission of the department to continue to provide comparable level of service. I believe that with your support and the direction of the Mayor we will have an even greater impact on the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

NEW INVESTMENTS IN 2014

DFSS is proud to be able to announce six program expansions in the 2014 budget. These include:

Expanded Youth Programs – As part of his budget address, the Mayor announced new investments that will allow us to expand after school programs, best-in-class summer programs like One Summer PLUS and Greencorps Youth, and double our capacity to provide intervention and support services to youth arrested and processed through the Juvenile Intervention Support Center. We will be able to serve over 6,500 additional youth in 2014.

New Domestic Violence Shelter – The City is investing in a new domestic violence shelter on the southwest side and begin construction in early 2014 – the first new domestic violence shelter in more than a decade. The new domestic violence shelter will have 40 beds, and will increase the number of available beds in the City of Chicago by almost 36 percent, taking the overall number from 112 to 152.

Housing Street Homeless: DFSS will establish an initiative to house street homeless, seeking to move 100 chronically homeless people off the streets and into housing with ongoing case management and rental subsidies from various housing partners.

Community Re-entry Support Centers – DFSS will double the number of access points for ex-offenders and the formerly incarcerated by adding two new Re-entry Support Centers on the North and Far South sides to help 7,500 additional former offenders get the comprehensive services they need to start over and become productive citizens.

Expanded Tax Preparation Assistance – DFSS will support tax-preparation assistance services for more than 23,000 low-income residents, up 23% from 18,685 in 2013.

EITC Advanced Payments Pilot – DFSS plans to launch a new pilot project to provide advance Earned Income Tax Credit payments to eligible low-income individuals and families in partnership with the Center for Economic Progress.

CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

While DFSS is committed to assisting all residents in need, the safety, well-being, and healthy development of Chicago's children and youth remains a Mayoral and departmental priority.

In 2014, DFSS will invest over \$150 million in Head Start, Early Head Start and Child Care programs, including \$11 million as part of Mayor Emanuel's multi-year commitment to expanding access and quality of early learning programs for Chicago's children most in need.

To ensure that we are keeping Chicago's young people learning and safe throughout the year, DFSS will expand after-school, summer jobs and violence-reduction programs for youth and continue to coordinate the One Summer Chicago initiative. In total, we will serve over 30,000 youth in our programs, an increase of 6,500 youth, or 27%, over 2013.

DFSS has been working hard to implement many of the programs outlined in Plan 2.0, including those designed to break the cycle of homelessness early on by focusing on homeless youth. In 2014, DFSS will continue to dedicate \$2.5 million to support three regional drop-in support centers and an additional 74 year-round overnight shelter beds. These new investments will serve an additional 1,400 homeless youth each year. Additionally, DFSS will fund employment services for an additional 220 homeless persons living in interim shelters in 2014.

The Department of Family and Support Services deeply appreciates Mayor Emanuel's commitment to Chicago's children and youth, and is proud to work on his behalf to advocate for and implement programs that keep them safe, engaged, and prepared to play a leading role in Chicago's future.

THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL SEQUESTRATION

We have continued service delivery despite recent grant cuts in many important programs residents rely on. The most significant potential threat to service delivery in 2014 is the across-the-board federal budget cuts known as sequestration. DFSS sustained the loss of nearly \$9 million in federal grants as a result of sequestration in 2013:

- Head Start and Early Head Start - \$6.58 million
- Emergency Solutions Grant - \$1.32 million
- Community Services Block Grant - \$650,479
- Area Plan on Aging - \$254,587

Despite these cuts, we were able to avoid cutting Head Start slots and reducing any other services.

We will work closely with the Mayor's Office and our allies to monitor the ongoing federal budget situation and gather information about a potential second wave of sequestration cuts in

2014. Such cuts are likely to take place unless the Congress can find an alternative to sequestration in the upcoming budget negotiations.

We also thank the Chicago City Council for its continued support and for working closely with the department to address pressing social service issues in your communities.

You are our partners in this vital work, and we look forward to working with you to make a positive impact in the lives of our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn J. Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".

Evelyn J. Diaz
Commissioner

Department of Family and Support Services

2014 Budget Hearing

MBE/WBE Data

Period: 1/1/13 – 10/20/13

Total Purchases: \$2,200,841.26

	MBE	WBE	Total MBE/WBE Purchases
WBE only	n/a	\$94,039.44 (4%)	\$94,039.44 (4%)
Asian	\$99,272.00 (5%)	\$0 (0%)	\$99,272 (5%)
African-American	\$458,226.87 (21%)	\$0 (0%)	\$458,226.87 (21%)
Hispanic	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0
Other	\$65,241.41(3%)	\$0 (0%)	\$65,241.41(3%)
Total Spending	\$603,792.28 (29%)	\$94,039.44 (4%)	\$716,779.72(33%)

Staffing Data

	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	3	9	12	3%
Black	40	175	215	58%
Hispanic	22	57	79	21%
White	21	45	66	18%
Total	86	286	372	
	23%	77%		

	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	
Black	0	1	1	50%
Hispanic	0	0	0	
White	0	1	1	50%
Total	0	2	2	
	0%	100%		

	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1	1	2	2%
Black	13	29	42	54%
Hispanic	4	9	13	17%
White	8	13	21	27%
Total	26	52	78	
	33%	67%		

Current Interns

School	Gender	Race
<u>University of Illinois-Chicago</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Black</u>
<u>Indiana University Northwest</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Concordia University – Chicago</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Black</u>
<u>Past Interns (Internship Ended)</u>		
<u>UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Black</u>
<u>UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Loyola University Chicago</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Tiffin University</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Black</u>

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<u>University of Illinois – Chicago</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Northeastern University</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Indiana University</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Purdue University</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Harvard Business School</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Northwestern University</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>Loyola University</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Black</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>14</u>	



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
family & support services

